

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03

LAB-06 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02

SS-20 STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03

FEA-02 OMB-01 SWF-02 SAM-01 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /196 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4972

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, GATT, EEC, IT

SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT ON ARTICLE XXIV:6

PASS STR AND AGRICULTURE

REF: EC BRUSSELS 3405

1. ECON-COMM MIN DISCUSSED STATUS XXIV:6 NEGOTIATIONS WITH
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FRANCISCI, MINISTERIAL LEVEL OFFICIAL IN MFA, WHO IS GUAZZARONI'S DE FACTO DEPUTY FOR EC MATTERS. ECMIN STRESSED TO FRANCISCI URGENCY OF ARRIVING AT SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION NEXT WEEK AND DANGERS WHICH FURTHER DELAY WOULD CAUSE FOR US TRADE BILL AND MTN. FRANCISCI WAS WELL INFORMED ON STATUS TRADE BILL AND READILY AGREED THAT TIMING OF XXIV:6 IS A CRITICAL ELEMENT.

2. FRANCISCI COMMENTED THAT NEGOTIATIONS SEEM TO BE PROCEEDING WELL AND THAT HE THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE A SUCCESSFUL SETTLEMENT NEXT WEEK. ECMIN POINTED OUT THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE IF ITALY CONTINUED TO SHOW NO FLEXIBILITY ON TOBACCO AND KRAFT PAPER. FRANCISCI SAID THAT HE DID NOT THINK ITALIAN RESERVATIONS WOULD IN THE END BE A PROBLEM, DESCRIBING THEM AS IN A SENSE "TECHNICAL". HE REITERATED THAT HE IS QUITE SURE THE PACKAGE WILL BE SETTLED NEXT WEEK AND THAT ITALY WILL NOT BE A STUMBLING BLOCK.

3. COMMENT: FRANCISCI'S REMARKS SUGGEST THAT GOI NEGOTIATING INSTRUCTIONS ARE TO CONTINUE TO RESERVE AS LONG AS THERE ARE OTHER RESERVATIONS. WE EXPECT THIS IS FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL REASONS, I.E., GOI NEGOTIATIONS CANNOT ACCEPT US TERMS UNTIL THEY CAN TELL ITALIAN INTERESTS AFFECTED THAT THIS ACTION WAS LAST REMAINING OBSTACLE TO SUCCESSFUL AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT GOI WILL TRY TO SPLIT REMAINING DIFFERENCES. VOLPE

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